

SHOWTIME
February filled
with a lot of funny



SPORTS, 1C
Broward's Bosa
NFL's top rookie

Winner of the 2019 Pulitzer Prize Gold Medal for Public Service

SOUTH FLORIDA
SunSentinel

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Rape suspect's DNA proves elusive

Man in Pillowcase Rape investigation was criminal in '90s, but sample never taken

BY ANDREW BORYGA
AND EILEEN KELLEY

The case of the notorious Pillowcase Rapist could have been solved decades ago if only authorities had collected their suspect's DNA when the law in-

structed them to. According to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, legislation to create a statewide database of DNA was first passed in 1989. By Jan. 1, 1990, a database was set up and police agen-

cies were instructed to collect DNA samples from offenders convicted of sexual assaults, lewdness and indecent acts. That would have included Robert Eugene Koehler. Koehler was arrested by the Palm Beach Police Department in October 1990 after a woman was raped in her apartment. The account of the rape resembled ac-

counts of women who reported being raped by the Pillowcase Rapist in Miami and Broward years earlier, but they were never linked. Koehler pleaded guilty to sexual battery in February 1991. According to court records, he was ordered to pay more than \$6,000 in fines, sentenced to community control supervision and sur-

veillance for 18 months as well as another seven years of probation. However, his DNA was never once collected, nor was a requirement for it to be collected listed as one of the many conditions of his

community control terms, according to court records. Based on Florida law, Koehler's blood sample should have been collected and entered in the burgeoning statewide registry at some point during the process of his conviction and release. Instead, he became a free

See **DNA**, 9A

"It's a major break. We're doing our best to stop the flow into the waterway. It's getting ahead of us. ... We are racing to replace these pipes that have been neglected for years."

— Fort Lauderdale Mayor Dean Trantalis



SUSAN STOCKER/SUN SENTINEL PHOTOS
Workers vacuum waste water spilling onto Bayview Drive after a sewer main break Thursday at George English Park.

Situation 'horrendous' after another pipe break

Sewage spilling into Middle River after city's seventh such incident in 2 months

BY LISA J. HURIASH
AND BROOKE
BATTINGER

Fort Lauderdale's sewage problems surged once again with the city's seventh pipe break in less than two months, flooding a street, leaking sewage

into the Middle River and closing a popular park. A 42-inch sewage pipe that runs under the Middle River broke Thursday morning, spewing sewage into the Middle River near George English Park at Bayview Drive and Sunrise Boulevard, across the

street from the Galleria mall. City officials called the break "major" and termed the situation "horrendous." The large pipe broke, and "part of the flow is backing up into storm drains and that's causing partial flooding on Bayview Drive, and part going into Middle River," said city spokesman Chaz

Adams. By 9 p.m., there was still no word of how much sewage has been spilled and officials don't know exactly where the break is located. Crews have to suck up the floodwaters before they can start digging where they believe the break is so they can deter-

See **SEWAGE**, 12A

Pembroke Pines' Sofia Kenin reaches first Grand Slam final

BY HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA — Sofia Kenin never flinched. Not when she was twice a point from dropping the opening set of her first Grand Slam semifinal at the Australian Open. Not when she was twice a point from dropping the second set, either.

And the Pembroke Pines resident is into her first major final at age 21 — beating the woman ranked No. 1, Ash Barty, to get there. Now Kenin will need to beat a former No. 1, Garbiñe Muguruza, to grab the trophy. Kenin saved a total of four set points to stop home hope Barty's bid to give Australia a long-awaited singles champion

at Melbourne Park, pulling out a 7-6 (6), 7-5 victory on a stiflingly hot Thursday. "I was telling myself: 'I believe in myself. If I lose the set, I'm still going to come out and believe,'" said the 14th-seeded Kenin, who never had been past the fourth round at a major. "Yeah, I really did a great job with it. I didn't give up."

See **KENIN**, 12A



QUINN ROONEY/GETTY

Sofia Kenin, of Pembroke Pines, is all smiles after her victory Thursday over Ashleigh Barty in the Australian Open semifinals.

IMPEACHMENT OF PRESIDENT TRUMP

Focus shifts to vote on witnesses

Senate trial could come to an abrupt conclusion Friday

BY LISA MASCARO,
ERIC TUCKER AND
ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate jurors peppered President Donald Trump's defenders and accusers with final questions at his impeachment trial Thursday ahead of a crucial vote on calling witnesses, the focus shifting from details of the charges to whether it was time to simply acquit and conclude the trial.

The vote on witnesses, expected Friday, could lead to an abrupt end of the trial with the expected acquittal. Or, less likely, it could bring weeks more of argument as Democrats press to hear testimony from former national security adviser John

Bolton and others. Thursday's testimony included pleas to the senators who will decide Trump's fate, to either stop a president who Democrats said tried to cheat in the 2016 election and will again, or to shut down impeachment proceedings that Republicans insisted were never more than a partisan attack. "Let's give the country a trial they can be proud of," said Rep. Adam Schiff, the lead prosecutor for House Democrats. Americans, he said, know what it takes for a fair trial and won't stand for anything less. Trump attorney Eric Herschmann countered that Democrats are only prosecuting the president because they can't beat him in the 2020 election. "We trust the American people to decide who should be our president,"

See **SENATE**, 11A

Coronavirus test results take time

Health experts say faster process to ID cases needed

BY CINDY KRISCHER
GOODMAN

If you are worried your cough or fever are symptoms of coronavirus, don't expect a quick confirmation. Once your health provider tests you, the wait begins. As 2019 Novel Coronavirus cases mount, health experts say a faster process for identification, containment and isolation of cases in the U.S. is needed — quickly — to break the chain of spread. This comes as the World Health Organization on Thursday declared a public health emergency of international concern over the outbreak. "Public-health authorities and health-care systems are on high alert for potential cases. But authorities can't act quickly without a test that can diagnose the condition rapidly," Dr. Scott Gottlieb, former commissioner of the Food and

■ **Palm Beach students** back in school after coronavirus scare. **12A**
■ **World Health Organization** declares global emergency. **3A**

Drug Administration, wrote in an opinion piece published in the Wall Street Journal on Wednesday. Infectious disease experts are working on a quick diagnostic test for the deadly coronavirus, but the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has been unclear about when such a test would be made available to health providers. "They have asked specimens be sent to the CDC and I think the fear might be whether the samples are contagious," said Bindu Mayi, an infectious disease specialist and professor of microbiology at Nova Southeastern University in Davie. "We are at the beginning of an outbreak in the U.S. and I think the CDC wants to minimize the people coming in contact with

See **VIRUS**, 12A

YOUR NATION, YOUR WORLD

Brexit to act as electoral guillotine

Divorce from the EU means Britons who have made homes across the continent will be disenfranchised. **6A**

Medicaid deal for states proposed

More control over spending on some low-income residents if they agree to limit how much feds kick in. **5A**

US House investigating dating apps

Subcommittee probing popular online dating services for allegedly allowing use by minors, sex offenders. **10A**

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